

## **Redman Storms Into Table Tennis Final**

**The New Milton Table Tennis Club Annual Tournaments continued last week with the Handicap Singles event. The handicapping means that everybody has an even chance of winning and so it proved on the night as Div 5's Gerard Redman beat Shaun Newcomb (Div 2) in their semi-final.**

In a very good turnout, the twenty players were drawn into four groups of five. Steve Hemmings did well to win his group on a handicap of +5 with Matthew Daish (+25) coming runner-up. Terry Jenvey (+12) won the next group with Club Secretary Bev Scott-Johns (+19) only just missing out on winning through sets difference. Simon Daish (+25) won his group with Gerard Redman (+19) nicking second place through sets won. Club treasurer Malcolm Floyd (+14) and Ian Linney (+18) both won the same number of matches (2) as Redman but missed out on further advancement through fewer sets won. Bob Fagan (+15) won the final group with Shaun Newcomb (+12) having to be content as runner-up.

The quarterfinals saw Redman play out of his skin to get the better of Div 1's Hemmings. Newcomb and Jenvey's quarterfinal started off "scratch" because they both shared the same handicap (+12) and Newcomb breezed through both sets by 21-14. The next quarterfinal was a battle of the Officials as Club Secretary Bev Scott-Johns beat Club Chairman Bob Fagan over three sets to claim his place in the semis. The other quarterfinal was a battle of the Daish's as Simon overcame brother Matthew in their "scratch" match, leaving Simon to face Scott-Johns in the semis, which will be played later.

The only semi-final played on the night was a nail-biting affair with Newcomb (+12) slugging it out with Redman (+19). Newcomb took the first set 31-28 but lost the second 25-31 to set up a fascinating decider. In what must have been the best set of the evening, Redman played cannily to win 31-27 and book his well-deserved place in the final to be played on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July.

The previous week saw a much lower turnout for the Veterans Over 40s Handicap competition, with only nine players taking part. They were drawn into one group of five and one of four. Newcomb (+12) won all his four matches to come out on top, including a thrilling three-ender against Div 2 team mate Malcolm Floyd (+14) who had to settle for runner-up position. In the group of four, Bob Fagan (+15), John Parkhouse (+21) and Malcolm Douglas (+24) all won two matches each, so onward progression rested on sets won/lost. Fagan went through as winner and Parkhouse as runner-up, leaving Douglas to rue his dropped set in his 2-1 victory over Parkhouse. On a hot and sticky night it was decided to hold over the semi-finals (Newcomb v Parkhouse and Floyd v Fagan) to a later date.

After the Handicap Doubles on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June, next up is the Singles (Scratch) Tournament on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.